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Borough Road, London, I observed one mode of exciting emulation, which I much disliked. Two boys wrote on slates, in competition; these trials of skill were shown for judgment to himself, a monitor, or to a stranger who might happen to be present. The victor in whose favour the decision was made was authorized to pluck the hair of his vanquished competitor. While I was present this practice only produced a ludicrous effect by the one evading and the other striving to enforce this exhibition of mastership. I did not like this practice even in its most favourable shape, but I could readily suppose that much more injurious effects might result from such a struggle, and very hurtful passions be generated.

In making these remarks, and objecting to the system of emulation carried to an extreme point, in a plan of which in many parts I approve, I endeavour to use that discriminating process, which I think ought always to be exercised in examining any matter whether new or old. By the warm advocates of Lancaster I may probably be blamed, for there are bigots in all schemes as well as in all sects both in religion and politics. But I wish to caution against an indiscriminate adoption of any plan without stopping to inquire whether with much that is good, some striking defects may be not mixed up.

I am inclined to think that one great defect in Lancaster's system is to overlook the means in the eagerness to accomplish the end, and in the endeavour to have a showy appearance of teaching much in a short time to be too little scrupulous as to the moral disease which may be excited by the excessive stimulus. Emulation if pushed too far may produce incurable injury to the moral habits, and the character in future life may be considerably tainted. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

POTATOE OATS.

I HAVE seen an inquiry in your last number as to the origin of the species of oats so generally known under the afore-said denomination. I am accidentally enabled to answer the ques-

tion by perusing the Obituary of the last London Monthly Magazine, in which I find the following article.—Died, at Troopland, in Cumberland Mary Jackson, aged 82 years, forty of which she had been a widow, and was greatly respected through life. She was the person who first discovered the method of rearing what are now called *potatoe oats*, so generally cultivated, and with such success in various parts of the kingdom. The circumstance which led to it was the deceased's observing a single stem of oats growing on a potatoe ridge, the seed of which had been conveyed thither by the wind. Observing that the straw was uncommonly strong, when the grain was matured, she preserved it, and used it for seed the ensuing season, which succeeding in a very extraordinary degree; the method was soon after adopted by numbers of farmers.

Thus we see that accident combined with judicious penetration succeeded in producing the discovery of a new variety of this valuable grain. To the same causes we are principally indebted for many valuable discoveries in manufactures, agriculture, and science

A READER.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE BEST TIME FOR PAYMENT OF WAGES.

I AGREE with M in your last number as to many of the inconveniences of paying workmen on Saturday evening, especially if their wages are not paid before a late hour. If they are at all paid on that day, they ought to be given at an early hour in the morning to allow the money to be usefully laid out in the market during the course of the day, when better bargains may be obtained than in the hurry of the evening. Some objections may be made to not paying wages till Monday morning. A dinner a little better than usual, is not an improper gratification to an industrious man surrounded by his family on his periodical day of rest. It occurs to me that in Belfast if wages were paid on *Thursday evening pre-

* This is now the practice in the cotton

viously to next day's market or on an early hour of the morning, many of the inconveniences pointed out by your correspondent might be obviated. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A LITTLE learning is a dangerous thing; so said Pope, and I believe it has been very often verified since he made the observation.

How many useful members of the community have been diverted from their proper vocations, to pursue imaginary talents which they did not possess, and which like an *ignis fatuus* have bewildered them into all the misfortunes of their lives? First caught in the toils of vanity, they flatter themselves with being as great as those they imitated, and were not convinced of their ridiculous attempt, till they were laughed at and condemned by those whose approbation they endeavoured to solicit. An arrangement of words, a disposition of sentences, an adjustment of phrases, with a grammatical regularity may be caught, and produce a flowing set of rounded periods; but these will not communicate either a novelty of thought or a felicity of genius. Without these, scribbling is but imitation without instruction, daubing without design. A classical blockhead is of all others the most intolerable: the book-worm who quotes from Homer, Virgil, or Horace, without application, and whose conversation is made up of the shreds and lumber of the schools should be confined to his desk all his life: here, perhaps, he may trouble the world with what he may call his works; but this is not quite so pestiferous as his verbal bawling, as no man is compelled to read, though every one in company is compelled to hear. Thus scribbling he fancies he has reached the summit of Parnassus: till he is precipitated from his imaginary eminence by the periodical corrigitors, who with monthly scourges, reduce blockheads to their primitive stan-

mill of Messrs. Lepper, McCrum and co. Belfast and in a few other manufactories in this town, the workmen receive part of their wages on Thursday evening under the denomination of market money.

dards But lest you should think I am guilty of what I accuse others, I here drop the pen, and submit to be rejected a candidate for a place in your estimable Magazine, yours &c.

A CONSTANT READER.

Larne, 7th Augt. 1810.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

We give the following: Oration to our readers, as developing the views of the more intelligent part of the American people, as to the state of their foreign and domestic policy. The Tammany Society is an association assuming this name, to commemorate the Indians, the ancient inhabitants of that country.

AN ORATION DELIVERED BEFORE THE TAMMANY SOCIETY, IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, ON THE TWELFTH OF MAY 1810, BY JOHN T. IRVING, ESQUIRE.

BROTHERS,

WE are here assembled to celebrate the anniversary of an institution whose object is a nation's prosperity, and whose supreme ambition a nation's glory.

It is an institution which professes a sincere attachment to the land in which we reside, and a perfect faith in the constitution by which we are governed. On an occasion of this kind, therefore, it is highly useful to consider, whether this land of our nativity or adoption, and the form of government we have chosen, are worthy of the ardent devotion we profess: whether our civil institutions will bear the test of dispassionate investigation, and are established on the strict principles of moral and political justice,—for, unless this can be manifested, our boasted advantages are but dreams and shadows, our patriotism but prejudice and infatuation.

But the necessary brevity of this address will not admit of an ample investigation of this nature—the scanty space of time to which I am limited will only allow me to seize the bold features of the subject and present them to your view.

The love of country is an universal passion, peculiar to no clime. It burns with equal fervour amid polar snows, as on the parching sands of the torrid zone. It is the sheet anchor of the heart which heaven has kindly given to moor each individual to his